

town because of its relaxing atmosphere and the friendly demeanor of its residents. However, even in the apparent serenity of this tucked-away, laid-back fishing haven, many people in Iron Mountain still have the haunting memories of their days as soldiers during times of war.

You see Mr. Speaker, my district, Michigan's First Congressional District, has the most veterans residing in its area than any other congressional district in Michigan. So it is often that I attend a veterans gathering or function. The purpose of the testimonial dinner that I attended this past April was to honor one of those veterans. His name is John Mella and he is the reason why I stand before you today with this tribute. Mr. Mella has recently completed his year as American Legion State Commander. We, in the Upper Peninsula, couldn't have been prouder to have him as State Commander since it has been fifteen years since a fellow Yooper has held the post.

Mr. Mella became part of the American Legion because of his honorable service in the United States Armed Forces. He has worked his way up as American Legion State Commander because of his continued patriotism and his commitment to the preservation of the memory of all soldiers of war. He, as do all veterans, understands what it means to be part of a community, to work together for one another. Mr. John Mella and all veterans who are part of the American Legion have made a pledge to our nation that during times of peace or times of war, they will be a united body to provide service to our country and will be the model of Americanism, joining together for the betterment of one another.

Ever since May 9, 1919 when the American Legion approved its constitution, it as upheld its stated commitment to God and Country. All citizens of the United States can look to these people who epitomize dedication and devotion to our nation. As the Representative of Michigan's First District, I am proud to have one of these such citizens residing in my district. In Iron Mountain, a town of apparent serenity and peacefulness, resides many brave Americans who had served and fought to protect justice, freedom and democracy, one particular is Mr. John Mella, a man of distinction, honor and service. A man who has my sincere admiration and appreciation. A man I am proud to call my friend.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 17, 1998*

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 11, 1998, I was unavoidably detained in a meeting with Attorney General Janet Reno, Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder, Martin Luther King III, Julian Bond, Revered Shuttlesworth, Alabama State Senator Hank Sanders, and others. The meeting was held in regard to discrimination and intimidation being committed by the FBI and U.S. district attorneys against African-American voters. This pattern of intimidation was carried out by continuously bringing charges of voter fraud and prosecuting people in Alabama's predominantly African-American counties.

If I had been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 229, "aye" on rollcall

vote No. 230, and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 231, a very important vote on House Resolution 446 which condemns the brutal slaying that occurred recently in Jasper, TX.

### SHIRLEY L. STORY AWARDED SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 17, 1998*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pay tribute to one of Northwest Indiana's most dedicated social workers, Shirley L. Story, of Gary, Indiana. On March 20, 1998, Shirley was honored at the Annual Social Worker of the Year and Citizen of the Year Awards Celebration with the Social Workers of the Year Award. The highest honor for a member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), this award is given yearly to a person who displays outstanding leadership, commitment, and professionalism beyond the normal clientele relationship.

Shirley was honored for her exemplary work as a Social Worker Supervisor at St. Joseph's Carmelite School for Girls in East Chicago, Indiana. During her twelve years at the Carmelite School for Girls, Shirley has instituted programs dedicated to improving the lives of the young women with whom she has contact. Indeed, she has created such initiatives as the Independent Living Program, where high school seniors are allowed to rent an apartment. The girls pay bills, utilities, and work their own jobs learning valuable skills for their future. Shirley is also dedicated to improving the field of social work as a whole. She is currently serving her second term as a representative to the NASW Indiana Chapter, which allows her to share her knowledge and experience with other social workers around the state.

Deeply committed to the community through her work, Shirley also volunteers much of her personal time. She is actively involved in her church, the New Revelation Church, in Gary. Some examples of the dedication Shirley has for her church include her service as the First Vice President of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Baptist State Convention of Indiana, Inc., the Recording Secretary in the Progressive Baptist Convention Midwest Region, and a Co-Sunday School teacher for young women. In addition, Shirley is active in the Delta Sigma Theta Public Service Sorority, Church Women United, and the alumna associations of Loyola University and Ball State University. Though certainly dedicated to her work and community, Shirley is also a caring, family-oriented person. Her children, Chisle Leah and Vaughn Michael, are twenty-one and nineteen, respectively. Chisle is a licensed cosmetologist and Vaughn will attend Purdue University this fall. Part of a family, Shirley often takes care of her nieces and nephews, especially the children of her sister who passed away three years ago. In addition, she often visits her relatives to spend quality time with them.

Shirley plans to remain with the St. Joseph's Carmelite School for Girls. With the opportunities for creating new programs, positive effects of the community, and helping individuals in need, she is very satisfied in her current posi-

tion as Social Worker Supervisor. However, Shirley has not limited her potential for good works in the future. She is considering opening a consulting firm to broaden her activities throughout the region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Shirley Story for being named Social Worker of the Year. Her dedication, service, and leadership to her community and her family has rewarded the people of Indiana's First Congressional District with one of the real heroes of our time.

#### IN HONOR OF TOM SALOPEK

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 17, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Salopek, who was recently chosen to serve as Guest Conductor for the 1998 Junior Tamburitza Festival. Tom's selection is yet another sweet note in a career marked by his love for the tambura.

A member of the Zagreb Junior Tamburitza at the age of nine, Tom was something of a music prodigy. In fulfillment of this promise, he would later become Assistant Musical Director of AZJT from 1979-1980 and then Musical Director from 1987-1991. In 1992, Tom was named the tambura instructor and musical director of Cleveland Junior Tamburitza, a position he still holds.

A dedicated musician with an unyielding and untiring vision as to his artform, Tom inspires the respect of his pupils with his dedication, spending long hours searching for and arranging the group's music. His appointment as Guest Conductor is a recognition of this dedication to craft.

Tom's passion for tambura is hardly surprising when one considers his roots in the Croatian community. Tom's parents, Peter and Kay, encouraged their children's interest in Croatian tambura, becoming actively involved in their group. To this day, Tom remains close to his roots, living in Cleveland's "Old World" East 185th neighborhood.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating Tom Salopek on his appointment as Guest Conductor at the 1998 Junior Tamburitza Festival. Let his sweet music continue for years to come.

#### THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHATHAM BOROUGH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, CHATHAM, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 17, 1998*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Chatham Borough Volunteer Fire Department located in Chatham, New Jersey on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. This anniversary marks the culmination of a long, proud history of providing voluntary protection of the lives of the citizens and their property in case of fire. The fire department will celebrate this historic centennial with a week of scheduled events beginning on June 27, 1998.